VIETNAM DISTRICT – YOUNG AND FUTURE BROTHERS

There are currently about **88 Brothers in the District,** of whomnearly 40 are **under 40 years of age**. The Brothers teach in 4 schools, two of which provide free education to all students. Apart from the school, the Brothers are also present in boarding schools, in places where there is a community. About 110 lay teachers share the Lasallian Mission, in addition to three women's congregations who contribute to teaching activities.

The great spirit of dedication to the Lasallian Mission continues with other young Brothers in temporary vows who gathered, beginning in the last week of May, in the *La San Mai Thon* formation centres. Here they carried out their regular programme of accompaniment and the annual activity of Lasallian reflection. This week was followed by a week of retreat from 11 to 17 June 2021.

The theme of this year's annual retreat was the pastoral letter of Brother Superior General. All the Brothers renewed their vows at the end.

In these recent photos, we see not only the young Brothers, but also postulants and aspirants who will be the Brothers of tomorrow.

We recall that on January 6, 1866, the first six French Brothers arrived in Vietnam to begin the Lasallian Mission. Three days later, on January 9, 1866, they began to run the first school in Sai Gon.

The history of the Lasallian Family in Vietnam faced its greatest challenge in 1975, at the end of the war, when all Lasallian schools were taken over by the government. Nevertheless, the number of Brothers grew slowly through active presence and service to the poor.

Around the year 2000, when the government began to timidly open up to some private activities, the Brothers had the idea of forming a legally recognised association that could open educational activities. Today, La Salle caters for **2422** children and young people, with three schools, vocational education centres and

student residences.

Let us continue to pray for and accompany these young Brothers on their journey of seeking to discover the will of God, thus continuing to build our great future of educational service to the poor.

To dream is our way forward!